

# SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

No.

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
VOLUNTARY PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
THE FILING OF ELECTRONIC BRIEFS,  
EXCLUDING THE ADDENDUM, IN  
THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT  
OF APPEALS

Opinion Delivered June 21, 2007

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## PER CURIAM

With permission from this court, an exploratory committee was formed to consider the implementation of electronic filing in the Arkansas appellate courts. The committee has submitted a proposal and has recommended that we establish a voluntary pilot program for the electronic filing of briefs, excluding the addendum, in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

Upon consideration of the recommendation and the proposal submitted, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals *invite, encourage, and request the voluntary filing of electronic briefs*, excluding the addendum, and hereby authorize the establishment of a voluntary pilot program. The pilot program shall include all briefs, excluding the addendum, submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court and the Arkansas Court of Appeals after September 1, 2007, for cases in which briefs are due in those courts on or after that date. As a courtesy to the court, it is requested that *non-participating* parties provide electronic copies of their

briefs, excluding the addendum, to opposing parties.<sup>1</sup> We further authorize the exploratory committee to promulgate procedures, consistent with the rules of the Arkansas Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals,<sup>2</sup> for the voluntary submission of electronic briefs; to develop methods for evaluating the results of this pilot program; and to make recommendations concerning the further use of electronic filing in appellate cases or such other recommendations as it deems appropriate.

An electronic brief, excluding the addendum, shall be submitted using the procedures and standards set forth in *Standards for the Pilot Study to Evaluate the Use of Electronic Briefs*.<sup>3</sup> A copy is posted on the courts' website at <http://courts.state.ar.us>.

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<sup>1</sup>Such courtesy briefs should follow the same rules set forth for the electronic briefs to be filed with the courts.

<sup>2</sup>It is important to note that the electronic filing of a brief (E-brief) is *in addition to* and *not a replacement of* the paper copies that are required to be filed by our rules. Compliance with the filing requirements of the rules can only be achieved by filing the requisite copies in the proper form with the Clerk of the Court. ELECTRONIC FILINGS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER A BRIEF IS TIMELY FILED UNDER THE RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. We will consider the paper original as the official filing; therefore, the E-brief shall not differ from the paper original, and all format and length requirements specified in the appellate rules shall apply.

<sup>3</sup>Questions regarding the technical procedures should be directed to: Jack Garvey, Website Coordinator, at [jack.garvey@arkansas.gov](mailto:jack.garvey@arkansas.gov), (501)682-9400.